

PERSONNEL PIPELINE

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MILITARY DIVISION
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

04-38

7 October 2004

MEDICAL HEALTH BENEFITS

SUBJECT: Enhanced Health Care Benefits for Reserve Component Members and Their Family Members

1. The Department of Defense (DOD) announced on 23 July 2004 the start of a new temporary program authorized under Section 703 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, which provides members of the Reserve Component (RC) activated in support of a contingency operation for more than 30 days, and their family members "early" access to TRICARE medical and dental benefits.

a. Benefits under this program are in effect from 6 November 2003 to 31 December 2004, the date the temporary benefits end, unless extended by law.

b. To be eligible for the temporary benefits soldiers and their family members must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and be TRICARE eligible. The soldier's personnel office (Joint Force Headquarters, Military Personnel Office) is responsible for determining eligibility for the early TRICARE benefit.

c. TRICARE eligibility begins either on the day the soldier receives delayed-effective date active duty orders or 60 days before the soldier reports to active duty, whichever is later.

d. TRICARE Management Activity is mailing a one-time letter to all affected soldiers who were eligible 6 November 2003 through 31 July 2004. After that time, soldiers eligible for the early TRICARE benefits will be notified by the Joint Force Headquarters, Military Personnel Office (JFHQ, MILPO).

e. Soldiers can verify their eligibility for the "early" TRICARE benefits by contacting JFHQ, MILPO (ATTN: Mr. Pinder, (Cmcl) 508-233-4013). A list of Service contacts is available on the TRICARE web site @ www.tricare.osd.mil.

2. Medical and Dental Care for Reserve Component Members

a. Soldiers may receive medical and dental services at a military treatment facility (MTF) or dental treatment facility (DTF) from TRICARE authorized providers reimbursed through supplemental care rules, or appropriate overseas programs (i.e. TRICARE GLOBAL REMOTE Overseas for urgent/emergency care).

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b. Soldiers will not be enrolled into TRICARE Prime until they reach their active duty location. Upon arrival at their active duty location, activated soldiers will receive guidance from their personnel office on enrollment in TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) or the TRICARE Overseas Program

3. Cancellation of Soldier's Delayed-Effective-Date Active Duty Orders:

a. Soldiers, whose delayed-effective-date active duty orders are cancelled by their personnel office as a result of not meeting medical and/or dental standards for mobilization, or for any other reason will lose TRICARE eligibility and return to their previous status. TRICARE eligibility for family members will also end at the same time.

b. If the soldier's delayed-effective-date active duty orders are cancelled prior to the date the soldier reports for active duty, TRICARE benefits for the soldier and family members end on the day the orders are cancelled. Should this occur, the soldier and family members will not be covered by protections under the Uniformed Services Employment Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) which allows persons to be reinstated in their employer-sponsored health plan.

c. Soldiers and family members who have employer-sponsored health insurance are strongly encouraged to consider retaining the employer's health care coverage until the soldier actually reports to active duty, at which time the soldier and family member would be fully covered by USERRA.

4. Medical Benefits for Family Members:

a. Family members who are eligible for the "early" TRICARE benefit may receive care under TRICARE Extra and the TRICARE Reserve Family Member Demonstration Project. Benefits under the demonstration, which waives the TRICARE Standard deductible and authorizes higher payments to non-participating civilian providers, will end 31 October 2004.

b. Family members of soldiers on active duty status within the 50 states may also enroll in the TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members (TPRADFM) Program if they reside in a TPR Zip code. To be eligible for the TPRADFM Program family members must have lived with the soldier when the soldier received the delayed-effective-date active duty orders, and must continue to reside at the same TPR location. Family members who live outside the 50 states will follow enrollment procedures for the TRICARE Overseas Program.

c. Family members needing to file a TRICARE medical claim may download a TRICARE Claims Form (DD Form 2642) at www.tricare.osd.mil/claims/default.cfm. Soldiers eligible for the "early" TRICARE benefit who are currently enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) will be disenrolled from TDP upon receipt of their delayed-effective-date orders.

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5. Dental Benefits for Reserve Component Family Members:

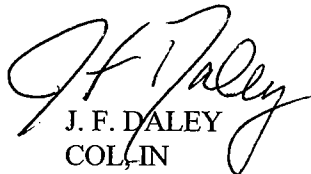
a. Family members of soldiers eligible for the "early" TRICARE benefit may enroll in the TDP and pay premiums at the active duty family member rate. To enroll, family members may contact the TDP administrator, United Concordia Companies, Inc. (UCCI) @ 800-866-8499 or www.ucci.com.

b. Family members who enrolled in the TDP will continue their enrollment at the lower active duty family member rate.

6. Up-to-date information on the "early" TRICARE benefits and the 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program is available on the TRICARE Web site @ www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/ or Reserve Affairs Web site @ www.defenselink.mil.ra.

7. Point of contact at JFHQ, MILPO is Mr. Charles Pinder, (Cmcl) 508-233-4013, (DSN) 256-4013, (email) charles.pinder@ma.ngb.army.mil).

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:



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